

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Official Action of May 10, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In particular, Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 11 and 21. In response, Applicant has rewritten Claims 11 and 21 in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 21 are in form for allowance.

In addition, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 15, and 27 to further clarify the recitations thereof. More particularly, Claims 1 and 27 have been amended to include recitations corresponding to dependent Claim 4, and Claim 15 has been amended to include the recitations of dependent Claim 20. As such, Claims 2-4, 20, and 28 have been canceled. Claims 1, 15, and 27 have also been amended to further recite regions that are "in close proximity". Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 2A and 2B of the present specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Furthermore, new independent Claims 61, 74, and 84 have been added. In particular, Claim 61 includes recitations corresponding to original Claim 1, and further recites "a first p-type silicon carbide region having a floor and a sidewall, wherein the drift layer is in close proximity to the floor and the sidewall of the first p-type silicon carbide region". In addition, Claim 74 includes recitations corresponding to original Claim 15, and further recites that "a first region of the drift layer is disposed between peripheral edges of the first regions of p-type silicon carbide". Also, Claim 84 includes recitations corresponding to original Claim 27, and further recites that "the drift layer is disposed between the respective sidewalls of the well regions". Support for these claims can be found, for example, in Figure 2B of the present specification. Also, dependent Claims 62-73 (respectively corresponding to Claims 3-14), 75-83 (respectively corresponding to Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21-26), and 84-87 (respectively corresponding to Claims 28-31) have been added. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant also submits concurrently herewith a Declaration showing invention prior to the effective date of U.S. Patent 6,700,156 to Saitoh et al. (hereinafter "Saitoh"). As such, Applicant submits that Saitoh is not effective as a prior art reference.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable for at least the reasons discussed below.

All Claim Objections Have Been Overcome

The Office Action has objected to Claim 2 due to an alleged typographical error therein. *See* Office Action, Page 2. However, Applicant has canceled Claim 2 based on the amendments to the claims discussed above. Accordingly, all objections to the claims have been overcome.

Withdrawal of All Rejections Based on Saitoh et al. Is Respectfully Requested

Claims 1-4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, 23, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Saitoh. In addition, Claims 9, 10, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Saitoh, and Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 14, 15, and 24 stand rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/00388991 to Ryu et al. (hereinafter "Ryu") in view of Saitoh.

Accordingly, Saitoh is cited by the Office Action in the rejections of Claims 1-10, 12-20, and 22-30. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Saitoh does not qualify as prior art under § 102(e). More particularly, Applicant submits that Saitoh has an earliest effective date as a reference of December 18, 2002. However, as established in the Declaration under Rule 1.131 submitted herewith, the invention of rejected Claims 1-30 was prior to the filing date of Saitoh, *i.e.*, prior to December 18, 2002. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Saitoh is not effective as a prior art reference with respect to the claims of the present application. Thus, withdrawal of all rejections based on Saitoh is respectfully requested.

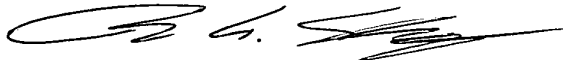
Applicant also wishes to note that Saitoh claims priority as a continuation-in-part from U.S. Application No. 10/183,457. As a continuation-in-part application, Saitoh includes new matter that was not included in the earlier filed priority application. Applicant further submits that the removal of Saitoh as an effective reference should not be construed as an admission with respect to any teachings of Saitoh.

In re: Sei-Hyung Ryu
Serial No.: 10/698,170
Filed: October 30, 2003
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Conclusion

Applicant again appreciates the thorough examination of the present application. However, in light of the amendments and discussion presented above, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited references, and that the present application is therefore in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



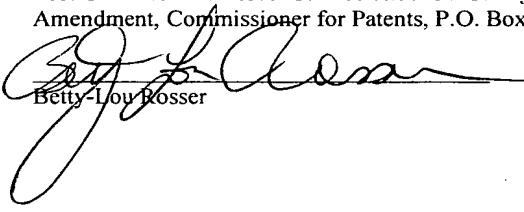
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